

## REESTABLISHED TEAM (CONT.)

Alarmed with the image that Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties are a safe place for drug traffickers to conduct business, local county officials have responded by reestablishing the former Mid-Michigan Area Group Narcotics Enforcement Team (MAGNET).

MAGNET began operating in the year 1995 but was disbanded in March of 2003 due to lack of funding. Funding from drug seizures was not enough to sustain the team's activities. However, MAGNET resumed operations on October 13, 2003 and is now under the command of Michigan State Police Detective/Lieutenant Gretchen Voltz.

Currently, MAGNET is comprised of six detectives from the Michigan State Police, Shiawassee County and Gratiot County Sheriff's Departments, Alma Department of Public Safety and the Owosso Police Department.

MAGNET is funded by contributions from local governmental entities within Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties, the Michigan State Police, and a matching 50/50 Byrne Grant through the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy. Funding for the team is also bolstered by drug money and drug assets obtained through drug forfeiture processes.

Any citizen with knowledge of drugs or drug-related activities in the Gratiot and Shiawassee County area is encourage to call (989) 725-7254. All calls are treated as anonymous and confidential.

## STEPFATHER AND MOTHER OF SUSPECT ARRESTED ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

MAGNET officers received a tip regarding a possible large-scale indoor marijuana-growing operation in a Bancroft home. The operation was supposedly being maintained by the suspect, his stepfather and mother.

Upon executing a search warrant at the residence, MAGNET officers found and seized 110 marijuana plants in various stages of growth. The marijuana grow operation was very sophisticated, complete with track lighting and a carbon monoxide tank. The grow operation consisted of seedlings to mature plants (ready for harvesting), allowing the suspects to obtain finished product all year round.

MAGNET turned over its findings to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who took the evidence to a Grand Jury. The stepfather and mother were charged with violations of federal drug laws.

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

### D/Lt. Gretchen Voltz

#### Michigan State Police



We are all well aware that there is a direct correlation between drugs and crime in our community. We also know that criminals do more than destroy lives - they also steal the sense of safety, well being and freedom from within our community.

Armed with this knowledge, community leaders and law enforcement agencies in Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties partnered with the Michigan State Police to establish the Mid-Michigan Area Group Narcotics Enforcement Team (MAGNET). MAGNET is a multijurisdictional drug team with one common goal in mind - removing drug dealers from our community's streets and neighborhoods, so you can live your life with a sense of peace and tranquility.

The concept of MAGNET is based on the simple premise that no one agency has the ability or resources to respond single handedly to the drug problems in our area. Therefore, we had to look at combining our talent and resources into a strong specialized drug enforcement team, aimed specifically at removing drug criminals from our streets.

As a citizen of Gratiot or Shiawassee County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective efforts of MAGNET. Whether using local street enforcement efforts,

**"I am convinced that by combining our talent, resources and technology, we are more successful."**



interdiction, education/prevention, or taking full advantage of the highly specialized crime fighting tools offered by state and federal agencies, MAGNET officers are committed to making a difference in our community.

While cocaine and marijuana still seem to be the drugs of choice found in many of our communities, now on the scene, and positioned to spread like a brush fire, is METHAMPHETAMINE. Many counties, especially in Southwest Michigan, have seen an alarming increase in methamphetamine clandestine labs (cooking sites), and the state is seeing an increase in meth-reported cases as well.

Methamphetamine is like no other drug we have seen before in this area, especially due in part to the fact that it is manufactured (cooked)

right here in our community and not imported, as is the case with other illegal drugs. As you read about methamphetamine in this newsletter, you will see how deadly and dangerous this drug really is. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, to report any suspicious activities, and to help MAGNET officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

### MAGNET's Goal:

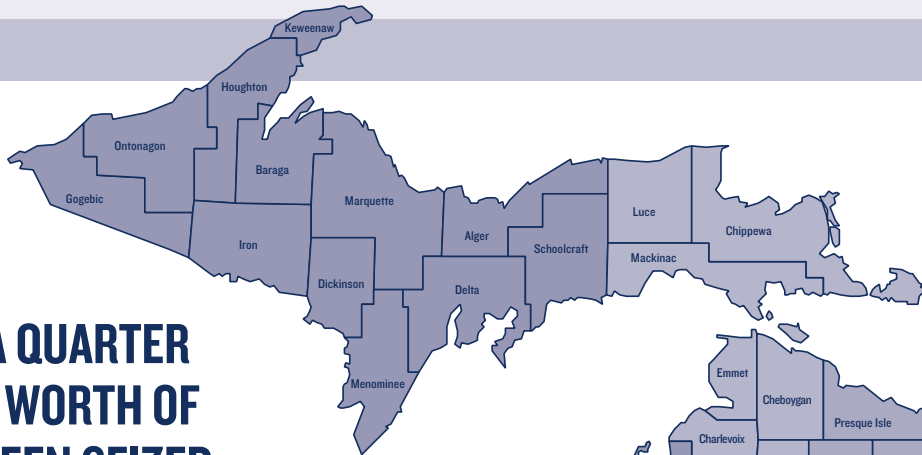
**Removing drug dealers from streets and neighborhoods, and restoring a sense of peace and tranquility in our community.**

As Commander of MAGNET, I am convinced that by combining the talent, resources and technology of our local agencies with those of state and federal agencies, we are more successful in our drug fighting efforts. As you can see by the 2003 numbers, we investigated 306 cases, made 244 arrests and stopped the dissemination of more than \$1,164,686 worth of drugs directed toward the children, family and friends in our communities.

**TO REPORT DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS CALL  
ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL**

**1 (888) MAGNET9  
OR (989) 725-7254**

# LOCAL MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG TEAMS HAVING IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DRUG EFFORTS

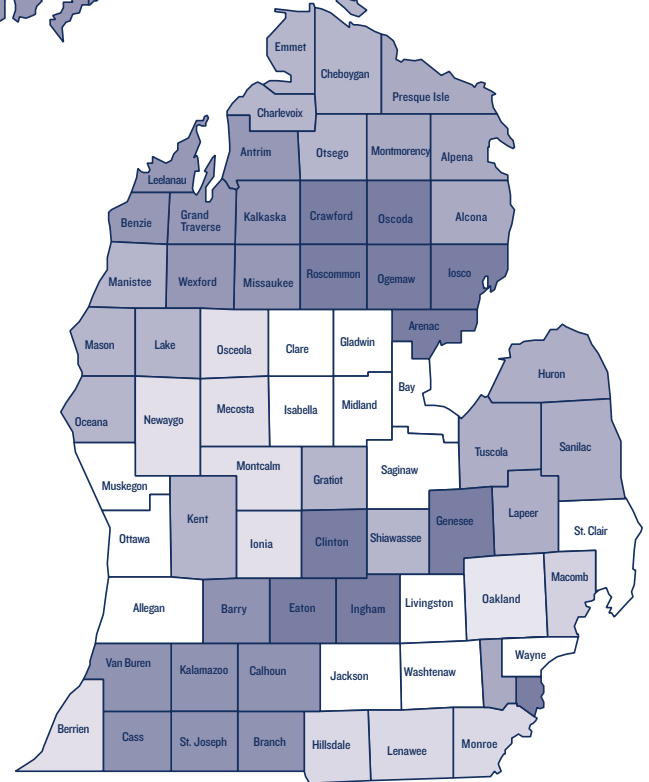


## SINCE 2000, ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF STREET DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MICHIGAN BY DRUG TEAMS

In the Spring of 1977, the Michigan State Police joined with local and county law enforcement agencies to begin a new concept in fighting drugs and drug related crimes in local communities. The concept was simple - no one agency had all the manpower or resources to adequately deal with the increase in drugs and drug related crimes finding its way into Michigan communities and neighborhoods. By combining local resources with the resources of the Michigan State Police, Criminal Investigation Division, along with state police and federal drug information identification and tracking systems, Michigan took a major step in bringing the fight against drug dealers and drug related crimes to the local level. And, it has worked!

Currently, multijurisdictional teams service 81 of 83 counties in the State of Michigan. Local officers from approximately 550 city and township law enforcement agencies, county deputies from 81 counties and troopers from the Michigan State Police are assigned to these task forces. The teams are funded in part through the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan State Police, and local governing bodies.

Just in the past four years, the multijurisdictional task forces have been responsible for arresting and removing approximately 14,450 drug criminals from our neighborhoods, streets and schools. In four years, the local task forces have also removed more than \$274,478,398 in street-drugs from local communities-drugs intended for our children and loved ones. As a result of the dedicated efforts of the multijurisdictional teams, tens of millions of dollars in assets and property that would have been used to continue drug trafficking in our communities - has been seized and removed from drug dealers.



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B.A.Y.A.N.E.T.	Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/790-6581
C.M.E.T.	Central Michigan Enforcement Team	989/352-6738
F.A.N.G.	Flint Area Narcotics Group	810/233-3689
H.U.N.T.	Huron Undercover Narcotics Team	989/356-3395
J.N.E.T.	Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team	517/784-2990
M.A.G.N.E.T.	Mid-Michigan Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/725-7254
M.E.T.	Metropolitan Enforcement Team	616/456-4801
S.A.N.E.	Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement	231/238-8692
S.S.C.E.N.T.	State, Sheriffs, Chiefs Enforcement Team	231/843-7045
S.T.I.N.G.	Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group	989/345-2304
S.W.E.T.	South-West Enforcement Team	269/962-1225
T.N.T.	Traverse Narcotics Team	231/922-0993
T.N.U.	Thumb Narcotics Unit	989/673-8600
T.C.M.	Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad	517/394-5588
U.P.S.E.T.	Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team	906/346-9289
W.E.M.E.T.	West Michigan Enforcement Team	616/994-6520
C.O.M.E.T.	County of Macomb Enforcement Team	586/790-3990
W.W.N.	Western Wayne Narcotics	734/397-9811
D.R.A.N.O.	Down River Area Narcotics Organization	734/479-1710
L.A.W.N.E.T.	Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team	810/227-7897
O.M.N.I.	Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigations	734/848-3445

# MID-MICHIGAN AREA GROUP NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

## TAKING DRUGS & DRUG CRIMINALS

# off our streets

Gratiot

Shiawassee

### RIGHT STORAGE BIN, WRONG NAME

The Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad from Lansing recently contacted MAGNET officers for assistance in a \$558,000 seizure of cash from a subject and his girlfriend from Boyne City, Michigan. The cash was believed to be from the sale of drugs. Tri-County believed they might be utilizing a storage rental facility in the Perry area to stash his drugs. MAGNET, with the assistance of the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit, went to the facility and when the dog signaled, the detectives uncovered the drugs and that false information had been used to rent the facility. Following the execution of the search warrant on the storage bin, officers seized a total of 35 1/2 pounds of marijuana in bales, hundreds of units of controlled prescription drugs, two currency counting machines, a digital scale, triple-beam scale, a balance beam scale and a freezer. Included were several prescription bottles in the name of the Boyne City subject and his girlfriend, tying them to the facility and the confiscated drugs.

### INTERCEPTION CREATES LOSING SEASON FOR TWO FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Recently, MAGNET officers received a tip that a vehicle was headed to Gratiot County and was transporting cocaine. MAGNET officers intercepted the vehicle with help from the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department. In the car were two male students from Alma College, both members of the Alma College football team. A canine dog from the sheriff's department assisted in locating drugs in the car. MAGNET officers found cocaine, heroin and cash. Both suspects are facing charges for use, possession and intent to deliver cocaine. Unfortunately, they are also facing the end of their college football careers.

## REESTABLISHED DRUG TEAM EXPECTED TO HAVE IMPACT ON COUNTY DRUG PROBLEMS

Like every county in the state, and every state in the union, illegal drugs are having a significant impact on Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties. The problem manifests itself in the form of murder, theft, child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, increased health care costs and economic losses. Of all the counties in Michigan, Shiawassee County was reported as having the third highest increase in narcotic offenses over the past five years.

In addition, drug crimes also saddle communities with significant monetary costs. The cost of law enforcement efforts, prosecution, courts and incarceration bears heavily on taxpayers. In 2003, Gratiot and Shiawassee Counties spent more than \$2,756,600 on jail expenses. Many of the inmates housed in the county jail system are there for drug-related crimes.

Marijuana trafficking continues to be the largest drug problem in this area, followed



by cocaine. Both are tied to Mexican drug-smuggling organizations. Like other parts of the state, methamphetamine trafficking and manufacturing have also become more apparent in this area. Scores of small "mom and pop" clandestine cooking sites (labs) and meth-related activities are springing up. Other drug activities associated with prescription drugs (such as OxyContin), fraud, forgeries, and theft have also surfaced.

(continued inside)

## MAGNET SUMMARY (from date of inception 10/01/95 - 11/30/04)

TOTAL CASES  
**1,387**

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED  
**1,078**

DRUG SEIZED / PURCHASED  
**\$5,319,790**  
(STREET VALUE)



**REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY (989) 725-7254 or 1 (888) MAGNET9**

ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL